

Message Text

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, US

SUBJECT: OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE-PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

REF: LIMA 4976

SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT'S PRELIMINARY VIEW IS THAT LIMA MEETINGS OF OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE WERE USEFUL TO US IN EXPOSING HIGH CARDS IN OUR CRITICS' HANDS AND IN AFFORDING AT LEAST AN INITIAL OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND. AS WE REFINE OUR POSITION FOR ROUND TWO IN WASHINGTON, WE WILL BE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT BOTH STRONG LATIN SENTIMENT IN FAVOR OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE (PARTICULARLY TO DEAL WITH U.S. ECONOMIC POLICIES) AND EQUALLY STRONG DESIRE THAT SYSTEM CONTINUE TO INCLUDE U.S. OUR HOPE IS THAT MODERATE REACTION TO EXTREME VIEWS AIRED IN LIMA WILL SET IN DURING WASHINGTON PHASE, GIVING DUE RECOGNITION TO OUR SHARED INTERESTS AS WELL AS OUR DIFFERENCES AND THUS PROVIDING SOUND BASIS FOR CON-

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TINUED U.S./LA COOPERATION. ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARAGRAPH FIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. USDEL TO LIMA MEETINGS OF OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO

STUDY RESTRUCTURING INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM HAS REPORTED INITIAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE RESULTS OF THOSE MEETINGS (REFTEL), WHICH IT CHARACTERIZED AS TENTATIVE AND EXPLORATORY, DISINCLINED TO REACH HASTY DECISIONS ON SYSTEM'S FUTURE SHAPE. IN DELEGATION'S VIEW, MEETINGS REVEALED CERTAIN TRENDS IN LATIN AMERICAN THINKING WHICH SHOULD BE PAID SPECIAL ATTENTION AS WE REFINED OUR STRATEGY FOR SECOND ROUND OF MEETINGS BEGINNING HERE SEPTEMBER 4:

- A. SENTIMENT IS STRONG IN FAVOR OF THOROUGH-GOING CHANGE IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT OF BOTH OAS CHARTER AND RIO TREATY. ALTHOUGH MEMBERS DIFFER SHARPLY OVER WHAT SHOULD BE SYSTEM'S ULTIMATE SHAPE AND ROLE, THEY GENERALLY AGREE THAT IT IS NOW OUT OF TUNE WITH TIMES.
- B. WHILE LATIN OPINIONS VARY WIDELY OVER ROLE WHICH SYSTEM SHOULD PLAY IN PEACEKEEPING, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, AND OTHER POLITICAL MATTERS, THEY GENERALLY AGREE THAT ITS ECONOMIC ROLE SHOULD BE TO PROTECT AND ADVANCE LATIN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT -- PARTICULARLY AS AFFECTED BY U.S. ACTIONS, POLICIES, AND INFLUENCES.
- C. DESPITE STRONG SENTIMENT IN FAVOR OF "MODERNIZING" OUR RELATIONSHIP, THERE IS GENERAL DESIRE TO PRESERVE SOME FORM OF INSTITUTIONAL ASSOCIATION INVOLVING U.S. WHETHER TO ADJUST OUR DIFFERENCES OR HARMONIZE OUR INTERESTS (OR BOTH), ALMOST ALL BELIEVE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, AS DISTINCT FROM PURELY LATIN AMERICAN ONE, IS IMPERATIVE (ARGENTINA'S SUGGESTION THAT U.S. BE EXCLUDED OBTAINED NO SUPPORT FROM ANY OTHER DELEGATION IN LIMA).
- D. WHILE NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE IN LIMA TO OVERTURN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OR SUBVERT OAS POLICY TOWARD CUBA, THE SANCTIONS THEMSELVES AND CUBA'S EXCLUSION FROM PARTICIPATION WERE FREQUENTLY CRITICIZED IN DEBATE AS EXAMPLES OF SYSTEM'S BEING BENT TO SERVE U.S. COLD WAR INTERESTS.

- E. BASIC ISSUE WHICH COMMITTEE MUST RESOLVE IS WHETHER RESTRUCTURED SYSTEM WILL BE DESIGNED MAINLY TO DEAL WITH DIFFERENCES BETWEEN U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA; TO BUILD COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BASED ON COMMONALITY OF INTERESTS AMONG ALL MEMBERS; OR ATTEMPT SOMEHOW TO SERVE BOTH

PURPOSES. INHERENT IN THIS ISSUE IS BIPOLAR VIEW OF U.S./LA RELATIONS PUSHED BY PERU AND OTHERS, LINKED TO ARGUMENT THAT LATIN DEVELOPMENT NEEDS REQUIRE IMPOSITION OF GREATER RESTRAINTS AND OBLIGATIONS UPON SYSTEM'S DEVELOPED MEMBER.

2. HAVING WEIGHED THEIR RESULTS, DEPARTMENT'S INITIAL REACTION IS THAT LIMA DISCUSSIONS -- DESPITE THEIR PRELIMINARY, RATHER GENERAL, AND OFTEN SLANTED CHARACTER -- WERE VALUABLE IN AFFORDING US A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF MEMBERS' DISSATISFACTION WITH SYSTEM AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEFINE OUR OWN VIEWS AS TO SYSTEM'S PURPOSES AND DIRECTION IT SHOULD MOVE.

3. NEVERTHELESS, DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED AT EXTENT TO WHICH SEVEREST CRITICS OF SYSTEM AND U.S. ROLE THEREIN MONOPOLIZED DISCUSSIONS AT LIMA TO ADVANCE THESIS THAT REFORMED SYSTEM SHOULD ONLY DEAL WITH "INHERENT" DIFFERENCES AND DISPUTES BETWEEN U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT MODERNIZED SYSTEM MUST PAY MORE ATTENTION TO DISCORDANT ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS, DEPARTMENT'S VIEW IS THAT A HEALTHY SYSTEM MUST ATTEND NOT ONLY TO OUR DIFFERENCES BUT ALSO TO OUR COMMON ASPIRATIONS AND INTERESTS, AND MUST AIM AT ACHIEVING A PATTERN OF COOPERATION WHICH AFFORDS MUTUAL BENEFITS TO ALL MEMBERS.

4. DEPT. RECOGNIZES THAT BURDEN DURING ROUND TWO WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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UPON U.S. AND OTHER MODERATES TO RESPOND IN CONSTRUCTIVE TERMS TO RADICAL PROPOSALS WHICH DOMINATED LIMA PHASE OF MEETINGS. DURING UPCOMING WASHINGTON PHASE, WE HOPE THAT THEME WHICH EMPHASIZES OUR SHARED CONCERN FOR HEMISPHERIC SECURITY, PEACEKEEPING, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, AND DEVELOPMENTAL COOPERATION WILL BE AMPLIFIED BY MEMBERS WHO DO NOT SHARE ADVERSARY VIEW OF OUR RELATIONS EXPRESSED IN LIMA BY CHILEANS, PERUVIANS, PANAMANIAN, AND A FEW OTHERS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: ABOVE IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND USE IN CONVERSATIONS YOU MAY HAVE WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. AS APPROPRIATE YOU SHOULD INDICATE OUR CONCERN AT LOPSIDED CHARACTER OF LIMA DEBATES, STRESSING OUR HOPE THAT MODERATE VOICES WITH CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS WILL SPEAK OUT DURING ROUND TWO IN WASHINGTON. POSTS WHICH HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO PER DEPTTEL 142729 SHOULD SOLICIT VIEWS ON RESULTS OF LIMA MEETING AND PLANS OR EXPECTATIONS FOR FUTURE PHASES OF COMMITTEE WORK. RESULTS OF ANY CONVERSATIONS SHOULD BE REPORTED PROMPTLY TO ASSIST DEPARTMENT'S URGENT REQUIREMENTS.

6. AS U.S. POSITIONS FOR MEETING IN SEPTEMBER ARE
REFINED, ADDRESSEES MAY ANTICIPATE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS
AND GUIDANCE OF A MORE SPECIFIC NATURE FOR CONTINUING
TALKS WITH OFFICIALS AND OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS. ROGERS

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